

**REMARKS**

Restriction is only proper if the identified Groups are independent or patentably distinct and there would be a serious burden on the Examiner if restriction is not required (MPEP § 803). The burden is on the Office to provide reasons and/or examples to support its conclusion that the identified Groups are patentably distinct. The Office has asserted that Groups 3-8 contain six distinct inventions because a method using different sequences constitutes a single, distinct invention. The Applicants respectfully disagree, however, even if accepted, Applicants contend that Groups 3-8 can be examined together without serious burden on the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request the Restriction Requirement be reconsidered and withdrawn. Alternatively, Applicants request Groups 3-8, or at a minimum Groups 5-8 (the siRNA sequences), to be examined together.

**Conclusion**

Applicants submit that the Office has not met the necessary burden in order to sustain the Restriction Requirement. Withdrawal is therefore respectfully requested. Applicants petition the Office for a four month extension of time from September 9, 2007 to January 9, 2008 and submit herewith the requisite small entity extension fee paid by credit card via EFS-Web. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct any deficiency not covered by this credit card payment or credit any overpayment with respect to this response to Deposit Account No. 19-3140.

Respectfully submitted,

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